

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 829

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Leon Berrong of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of James Leon Berrong; and

WHEREAS, Leon Berrong was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, well-known throughout his community, Mr. Berrong committed a great deal of time and energy toward improvements within Blount County; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Friendsville Academy, Leon Berrong attended Maryville College, where his athletic prowess made him a star on both the field and court. Mr. Berrong lettered more than twelve times in the sports of baseball, football, and basketball while attending Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, his talents gained him designation as a "Little All-American" in football, and he played no small role in leading the Scots to a berth in the inaugural Tangerine Bowl, played on January 1, 1947. In fitting recognition of his contributions to the sporting landscape of Blount County and of Maryville College, Leon Berrong was inducted into the Blount County Hall of Fame and the Maryville College Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Maryville College, Mr. Berrong pursued his post-graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, from which he earned a master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Leon Berrong served his country with valor and honor as a member of the United States Army between 1951 and 1953; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Mr. Berrong embarked upon a career as a teacher and coach at Greeneville High School, where he served as the head basketball coach and an assistant football coach; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure in education, Leon Berrong went on to serve with acumen and alacrity as a sales representative for a number of companies, including Vulcan Materials, McDowell Equipment, and Koch Materials, in which positions he earned the respect and admiration of his peers and customers alike; and

WHEREAS, the Berrong family are also well-known among Blount Countians as the owners and operators of the Lambert Acres Golf Course in Maryville; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the ideals of community service and the importance of civic involvement, Leon Berrong served as a Blount County Commissioner from 1969 until 1975 and was a member of the Blount Memorial Hospital Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Maryville-Alcoa-Blount County Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Berrong served on the commission from its inception in 1970 until his death. During his forty years as a member of the commission, he saw the budget grow from \$48,000 to more than \$2 million and helped establish the Leon Berrong Youth Scholarship Fund, which enables underprivileged to participate in Parks and Recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berrong was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Maryville, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Leon Berrong enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mary Lynn Lambert Berrong, and was the proud father of Blount County Sheriff James Lee Berrong and Kenneth "Nick" Berrong; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Berrong leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Leon Berrong, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Berrong.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.